



Kentucky Transportation Cabinet
Office of Highway Safety

For Immediate Release

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**Kentucky Office of Highway Safety announces July Fourth crackdown
on drunk drivers**

If you're over the limit, you're under arrest

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 27, 2011) – Fourth of July celebrations often include cook-outs, picnics, boating, time spent with family and friends and, of course, fireworks. But for too many Americans, the nation's annual celebration is filled with tragedy, as it is one of the deadliest holidays of the year when it comes to alcohol-impaired traffic fatalities.

That's why the Kentucky Office of Highway Safety (KOHS) is warning drivers that law enforcement will be out in force during the Fourth of July holiday weekend, cracking down on impaired drivers with aggressive *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest* enforcement.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration over the past 25 years show that, on average, nearly half of all deadly traffic crashes over each year's July 4 holiday involved some level of alcohol.

In fact, 410 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes nationally during the Fourth of July weekend in 2009. Forty percent of the fatalities involved drivers with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 grams per deciliter or higher.

In Kentucky last year, there were 66 alcohol-related crashes during the Fourth of July weekend. Of those crashes, there were 52 injuries and one fatality.

We want people to be careful all weekend, but particularly at night. The rate of alcohol impairment among drivers involved in fatal crashes nationwide in 2009 was four times higher at night than during the day.

Impaired driving is one of America's deadliest problems. In 2009 alone, 10,839 people were killed in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes, accounting for nearly 32 percent of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States. That's an average of one impaired-driving fatality every 48 minutes in 2009.

Alcohol impairs many of the skills that safe driving requires. It's simply not worth the risk to you or to the thousands of innocent victims who are hurt or killed each year by drunk drivers. So if you are over the limit, you will get busted.

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org.

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